

From: Dennis Catt
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/27/02 11:28pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

US Department of Justice,

I just wanted to give my idea of a practical solution. Though I do not believe that Microsoft should open its source code to its different applications, I do believe that Microsoft, and all software companies open the source to text, graphic, audio and video formats that are used and affect the internet. What it boils down to is that people want to have access to all content on the internet... it if being a video clip on CNET or a graphic picture or just simple text that might be proprietary to one application. I believe that software companies should share file formats of all types that range from anything that affects the internet and even Office Suites. They can keep their source code to themselves, since that is the bread and butter of their product. But file formats do not need to be proprietary, I think this will open the software industry to new opportunities and horizons and help out the computer industry as a whole. This would then keep from startup companies and companies already in the field from being discouraged by Microsoft's anti-competitive practices.

As for the operating system issues, I believe that the OEMs should be held responsible for neglecting the consumers freedom of choice. I don't believe that OEMs should be required to have to sell choice operating systems to their customers, but offer technical support to both the developers and the consumers. What I mean by this is that if I a customer calls into let's say Dell or Gateway computers for information about if their computers are compatible with a particular operating system, they should have that information, and the information should be readily available. Not only is Microsoft guilty of anti-competitive behaviour, but the OEMs have helped Microsoft force products on consumers, that don't realize that other options are available, which has made the consumer believe now that everyone be compatible with Microsoft's products. Also the OEMs of computer hardware must readily provide information to other Operating System developers and be held accountable if they discriminate any developer in the market, including Linux and other such developers.

The truth is that software developers and consumers lose to such actions of anti-competitive behaviour that has damaged the computer industry as a whole and placed it in the turmoil that it is in now. I feel that you will do what is best for the computer industry and for the rights of the consumer. The most important thing look out for and to protect is our freedom of choice... something Microsoft has all but taken from us, the consumer.

Thank you for your time and I wish you good luck.

Best Regards...

Dennis